

My proposal would be a windfall profits tax, the one I introduced with Senator DODD and others; that is, if the energy companies are, in fact, sinking their profits back into the ground to explore for more oil and build additional refineries above ground, they wouldn't be paying an excess windfall profits tax. That is not what they are doing with their money. Don't take it from me; take it from their own financial reports because that is not what they are doing with their money. I believe they ought to be paying a 50-percent windfall tax for oil above \$40 a barrel, and that excise tax ought to be redistributed to the American consumers who are the ones ultimately paying the bill. It ought to be distributed to them as a rebate for those consumers. We will have more to talk about this week on this subject.

I took some heart on Friday to hear a Member of the Senate from the other side of the political aisle has come to the same conclusion I have reached, and that is that these profits are far above that which is supportable or justifiable, profits far above that which would be created by a free market system; that the consumers are being treated unfairly. The Senate ought to do something about it. The question isn't whether we should do it. Of course we should. The question is, which method or which strategy do we employ? Do we decide this money grab goes to the Government—grab some of it and bring it here? Or do we decide this money comes from the consumer and ought to go back to the consumer in the form of the rebate?

I make a final point. We will again be confronted with this question of heating fuel assistance for low-income Americans. But it is not only low-income Americans who are being injured, who will be hurt by these prices. There are a lot of working families who just get by and who will look at this 60-percent increase in the cost to heat their home this winter in my part of the country and wonder how on Earth will they be able to do that.

I have described profits of the heads of the oil companies. Let me read total 2004 compensation for the chief executive officers: \$33 million, \$64 million, \$4 million, \$16 million, \$8 million. These are salaries and compensation packages for the folks who run the companies that are charging these prices.

The people have a right to ask the question, how on Earth is this allowed? We will have more to talk about as we go along this week. I hope, finally, there might be some tipping point at which the Senate says we must address this issue.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND WATERFOWL POPULATION SURVEY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 259, S. Res. 255.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 255) recognizing the achievements of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Waterfowl Population Survey.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 255) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 255

Whereas every spring and summer teams of United States Fish and Wildlife Service pilot-biologists take to the skies to survey North America's waterfowl breeding grounds flying more than 80,000 miles a year, crisscrossing the country just above the treetops and open fields, they and observers on the ground record the number of ducks, geese, and swans and assess the quality and quantity of waterfowl breeding habitats;

Whereas the pilot biologists operate from the wide open bays and wetlands of the eastern shores of North America to some of the most remote regions of Canada and Alaska, and are documenting an important part of our wildlife heritage;

Whereas the Waterfowl Population Survey, operated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2005, is featured on the 2005–2006 Duck Stamp, and has been recognized by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation for its contribution to waterfowl hunting;

Whereas the Waterfowl Population Survey Program has evolved into the largest and most reliable wildlife survey effort in the world;

Whereas for more than 50 years cooperative waterfowl surveys have been performed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service, State and provincial biologists, and nongovernmental partners; and

Whereas survey results determine the status of North America's waterfowl populations, play an important role in setting annual waterfowl hunting regulations, and help guide the decisions of waterfowl managers throughout North America: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and contributions of the Waterfowl Population Survey Program;

(2) expresses strong support for the continued success of the Waterfowl Population Survey Program;

(3) encourages the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in its efforts to broaden understanding and public participation in the Waterfowl Population Survey Program by increasing partnerships to continue growth and development of the Survey; and

(4) reaffirms its commitment to the Waterfowl Population Survey Program and the conservation of the rich natural heritage of the United States.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, in a few minutes, under the regular order, we will proceed to the deficit reduction bill.

#### DEFICIT REDUCTION OMNIBUS RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. Under the previous order, the hour of 4 o'clock having arrived, the Senate will proceed to consideration of S. 1932, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1932) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95).

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the presence and use of small electronic calculators be permitted in this Chamber during consideration of S. 1932.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that time spent in quorum calls requested during consideration of S. 1932 be equally divided between the majority and minority managers of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, at this point we turn to what is one of the more significant pieces of legislation to come before the Senate and the Congress during this session of the Senate. We always hear that. Whatever legislation comes to the Congress, they always say, Well, it is a significant piece of legislation—and it is. There is very little that he we do that cannot have that identification. But this one is a little unique because for the first time in 8 years under Republican leadership, this Congress will, if we are successful in passing this bill, conferencing it and then sending it on to the President, reduce the deficit of the United States through addressing what is the most significant item of spending in the Federal budget—mandatory programs. This is a major effort. As I said, it has not occurred in 8 years. The last time it happened was in the mid-1990s, and it has not occurred because people did not want to do it. It did not occur because it is not an easy thing to do. It is not easy to control the rate of the growth of the Federal Government, and it is not easy to control the growth of mandatory entitlement programs which is what this bill does.

So it is an important step in the direction of fiscal responsibility, and it is one which I am very proud to have the opportunity to bring here to the floor as chairman of the Budget Committee.